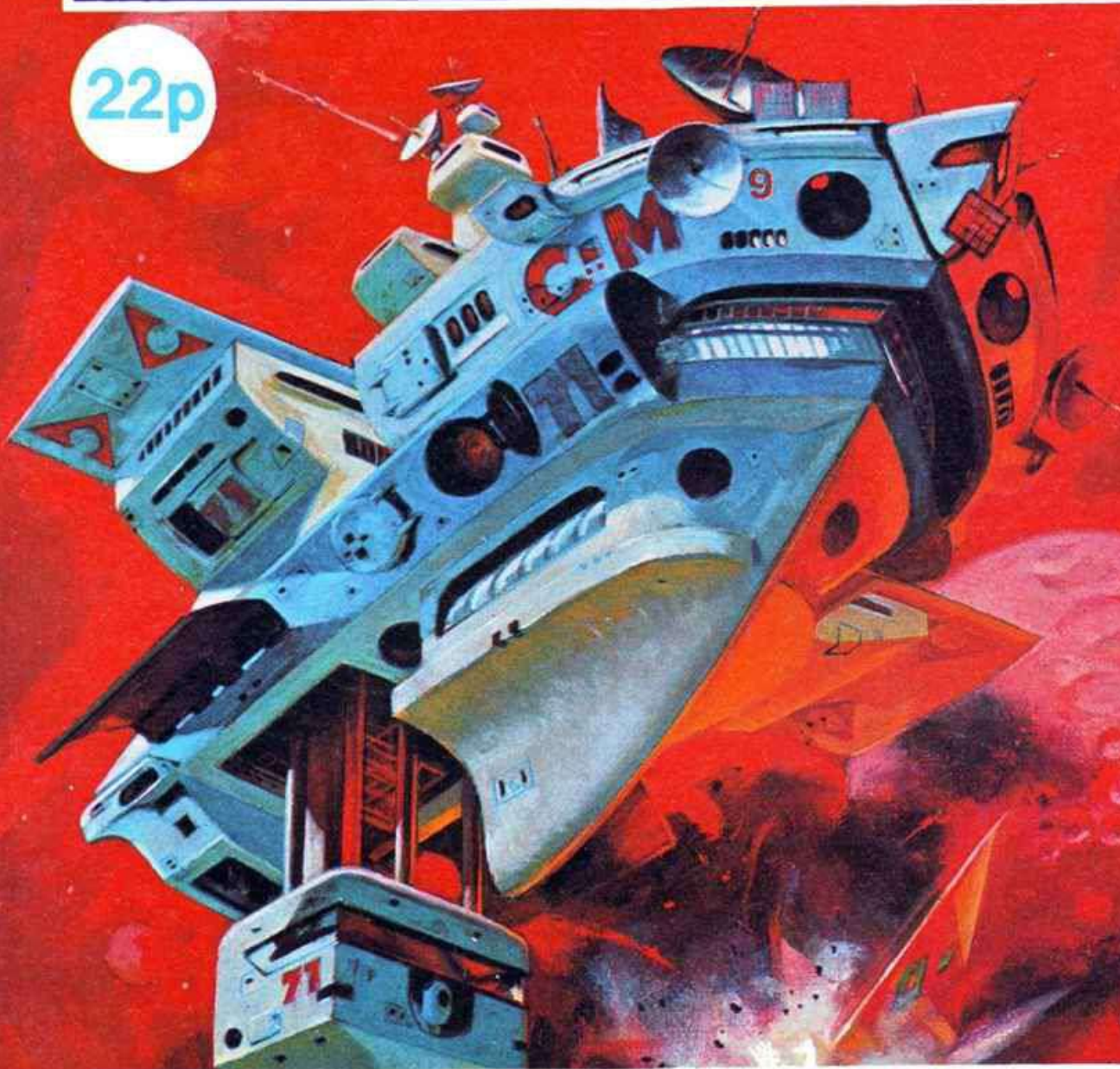


# STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 147

22p



# ATTACK FORCE

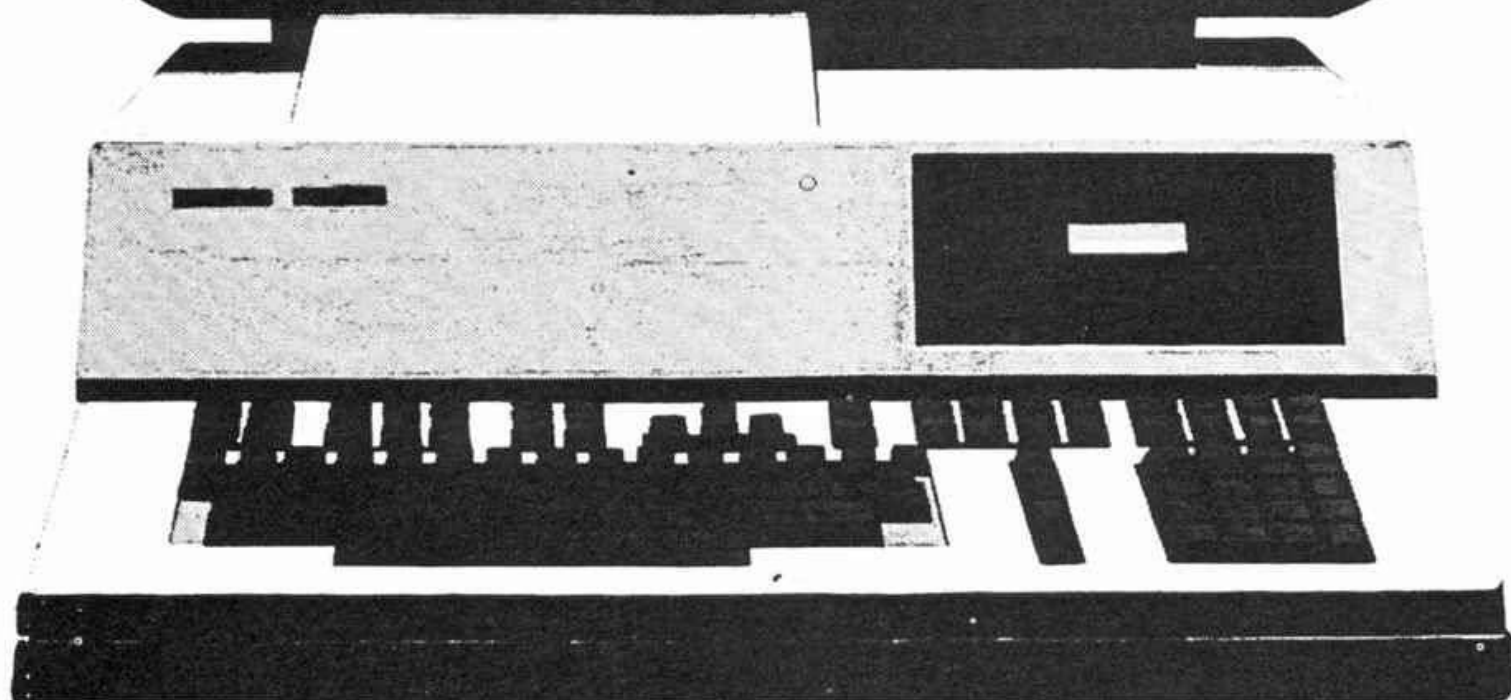
# X

Forster



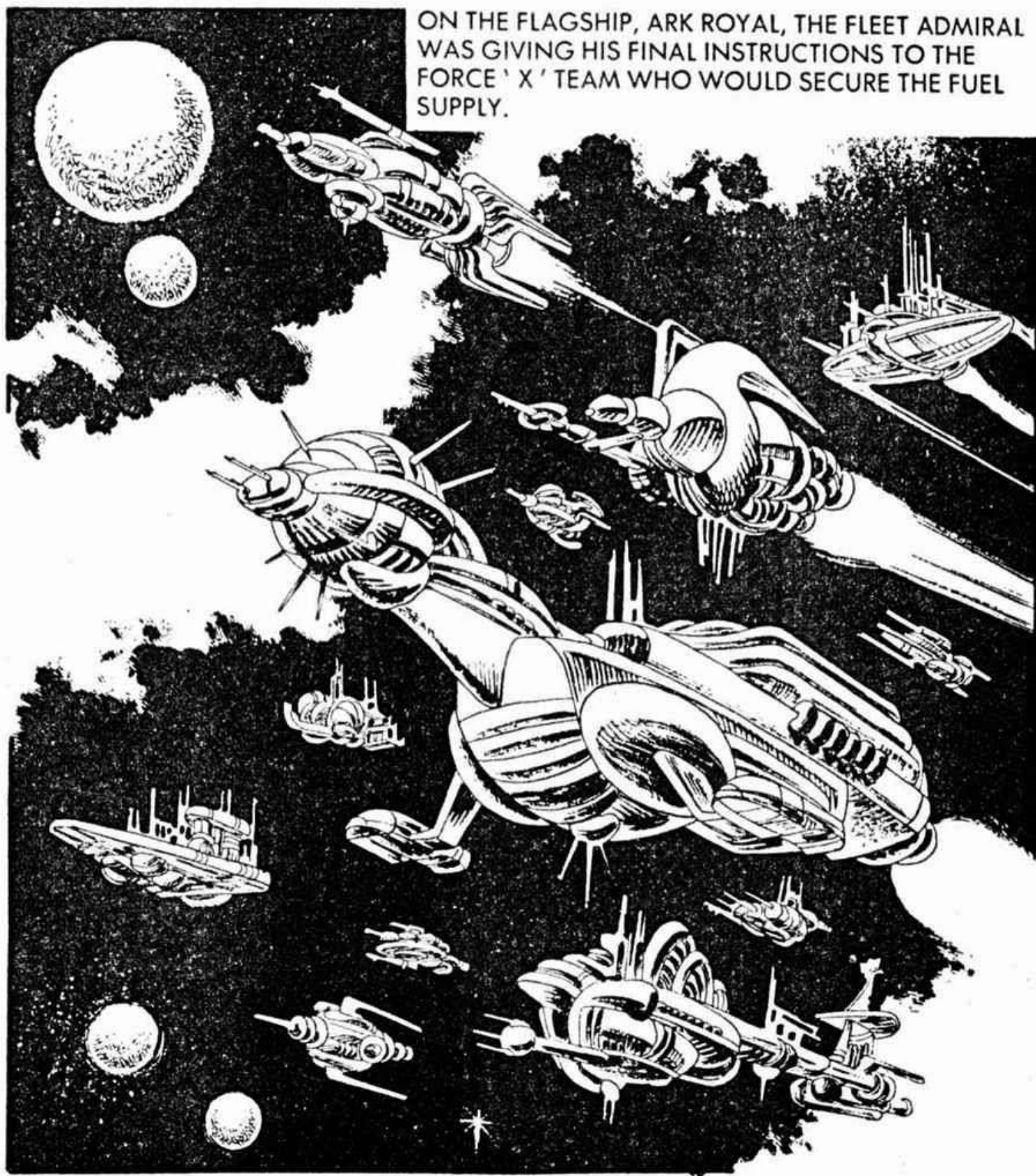
# STARBLAZER

**IN 2391 EARTH'S COLONY PLANETS IN THE SOL 4 SYSTEM HAD BEEN INFILTRATED AND EVENTUALLY OCCUPIED BY THE ZORGS. EARTH WERE UNABLE TO COMBAT THIS INVASION BECAUSE OF THE EXTREME RANGE OF THE SYSTEM. ANY BATTLE WOULD HAVE TO BE FOUGHT AT THE LIMIT OF THE FLEET'S FUEL RANGE, A RISK HIGH COMMAND WOULD NOT TAKE. BUT ON A DEAD PLANET, IN THE SOL 4 SYSTEM WAS A SOURCE OF FUEL — THIS WAS THE KEY TO SUCCESS, BUT FIRST IT HAD TO BE SECURED . . . BY ATTACK FORCE X.**




# ATTACK FORCE X

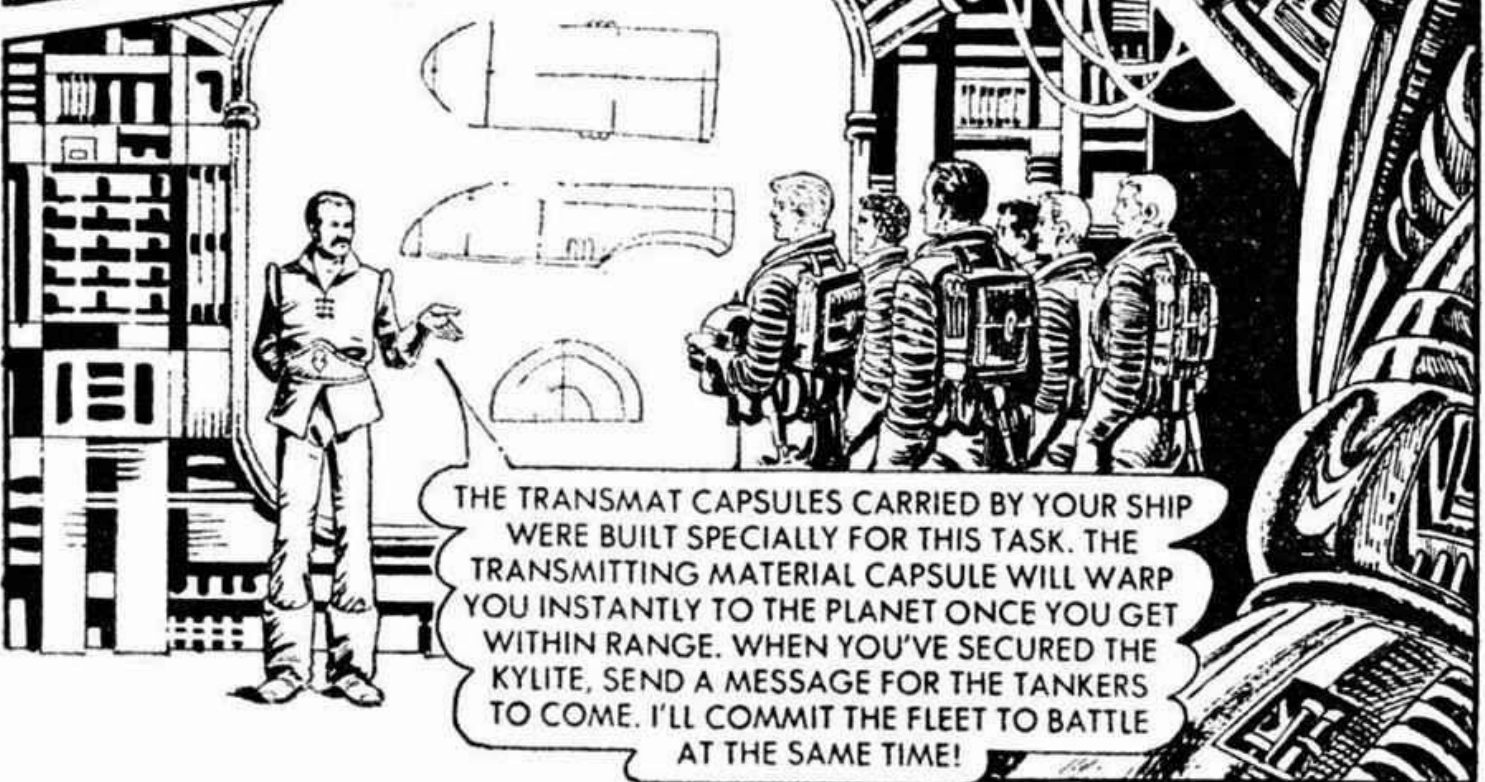
ON THE FLAGSHIP, ARK ROYAL, THE FLEET ADMIRAL WAS GIVING HIS FINAL INSTRUCTIONS TO THE FORCE 'X' TEAM WHO WOULD SECURE THE FUEL SUPPLY.







THERE'S A DEPOSIT OF THE DEEP SPACE FUEL, KYLITE, ON THE PLANET. A DRILLING COMPANY LOCATED IT JUST BEFORE THE ZORGs INVADIED. IT'S THE ONLY KNOWN SOURCE OF FUEL IN THIS PART OF THE GALAXY. YOUR JOB IS TO SECURE THIS SOURCE. IT IS THE ONLY CHANCE EARTH HAS.



THE TRANSMAT CAPSULES CARRIED BY YOUR SHIP WERE BUILT SPECIALLY FOR THIS TASK. THE TRANSMITTING MATERIAL CAPSULE WILL WARP YOU INSTANTLY TO THE PLANET ONCE YOU GET WITHIN RANGE. WHEN YOU'VE SECURED THE KYLITE, SEND A MESSAGE FOR THE TANKERS TO COME. I'LL COMMIT THE FLEET TO BATTLE AT THE SAME TIME!



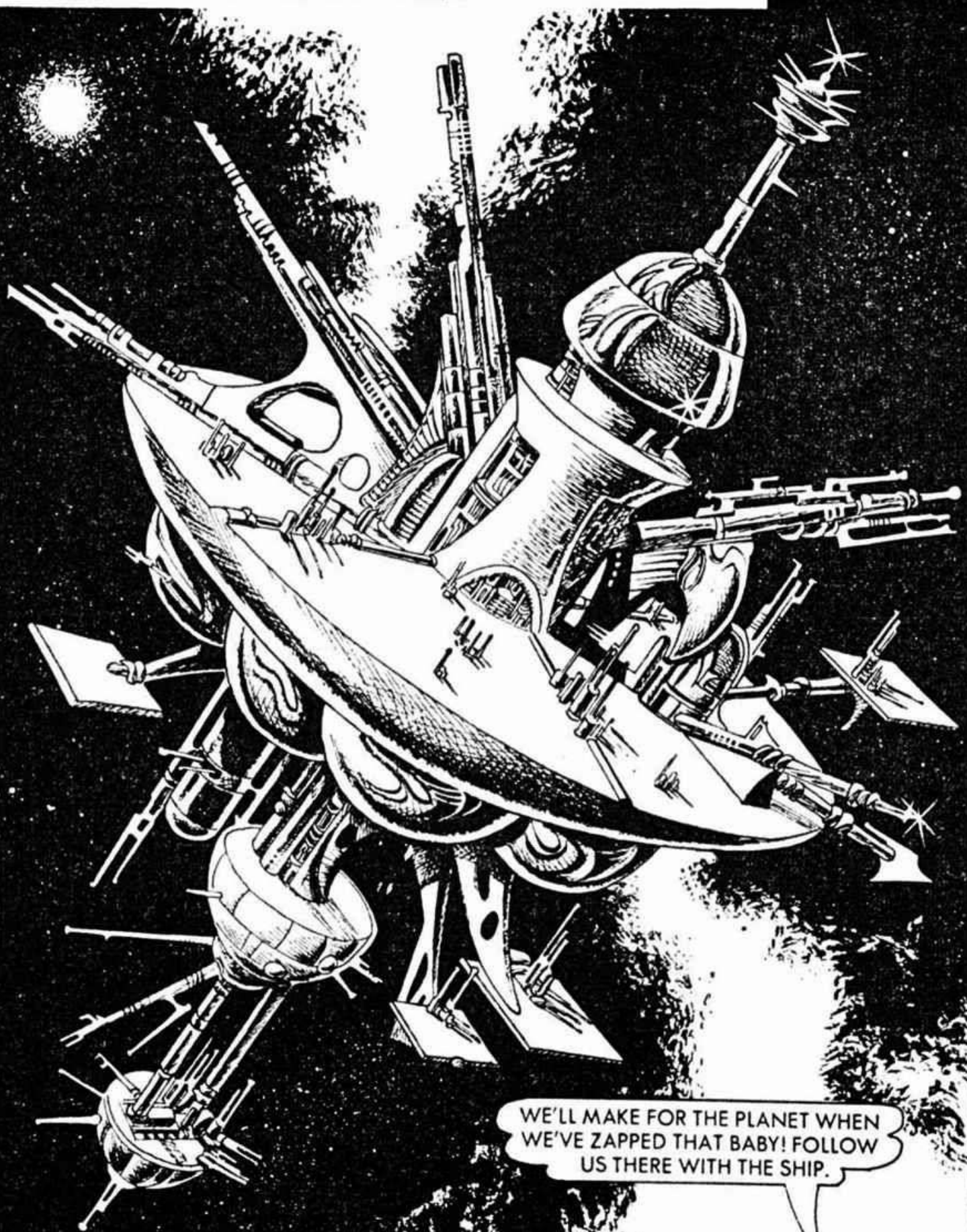
LIEUTENANT RYDER, THE LEADER, AND HIS MEN  
BLASTED AWAY FROM THE INVASION FLEET.

THERE'S SOMETHING AT THE  
EDGE OF SCANNER RANGE.

IT'S GOT TO BE HOSTILE!  
FIND OUT WHAT IT IS!



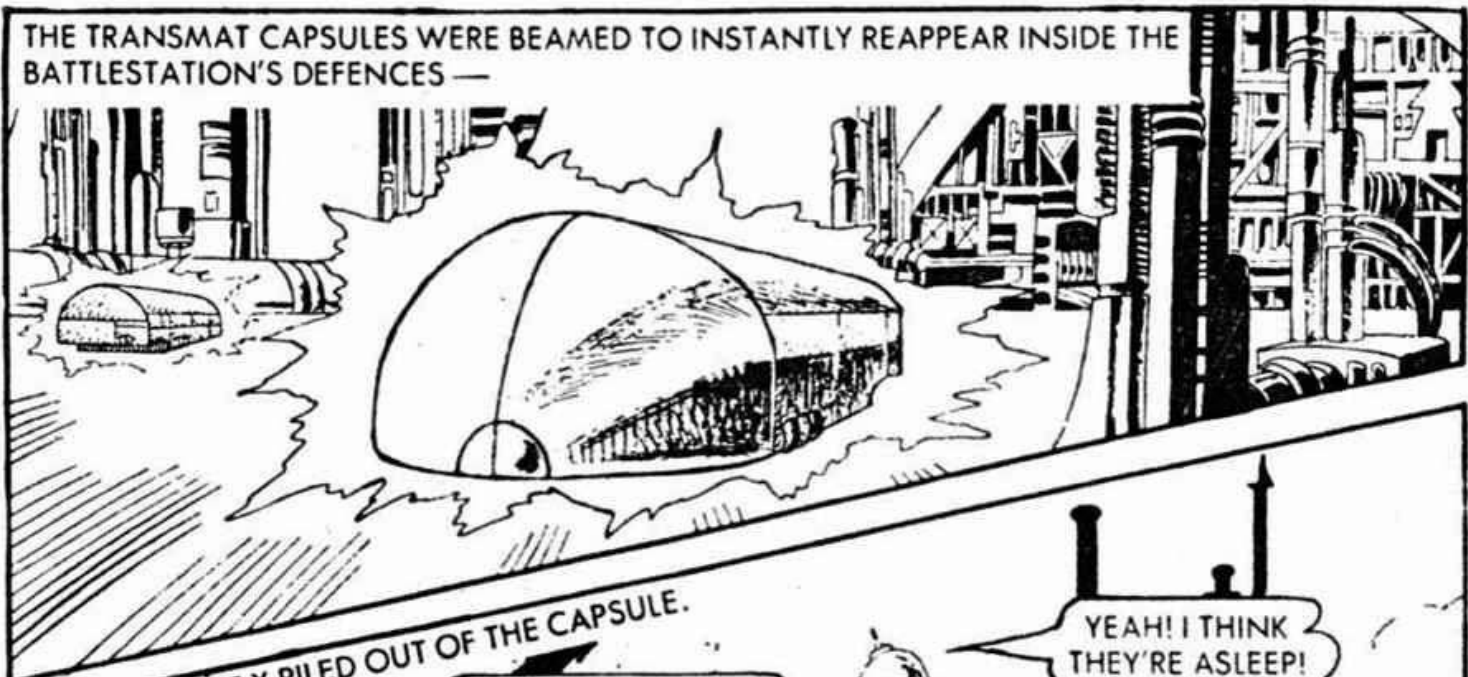
THE GREAT BATTLESTATION HUNG IN SPACE, UNAWARE OF THE EARTH SHIP.



WE'LL MAKE FOR THE PLANET WHEN  
WE'VE ZAPPED THAT BABY! FOLLOW  
US THERE WITH THE SHIP.



THE TRANSMAT CAPSULES WERE BEAMED TO INSTANTLY REAPPEAR INSIDE THE BATTLESTATION'S DEFENCES —



ATTACK FORCE X PILED OUT OF THE CAPSULE.

LOOKS LIKE WE GOT HERE UNNOTICED, RYDER!

YEAH! I THINK THEY'RE ASLEEP!



A SMALL LIMPET NUKE CUT A WAY INTO THE BATTLESTATION.



THAT SHOULD WAKE THEM UP. WE'VE GOT TO FIND AN ACCESS TO THE POWER CORE BEFORE THE ZORGS GET ORGANISED!

THE ATTACK WAS QUICK, AND DEADLY —

WHERE TO, RYDER?

STRAIGHT ON, SOLDIER AND  
DON'T STOP FOR ANYTHING!

THE CORRIDOR TOOK THEM DEEP INTO THE BATTLESTATION.

THIS LOOKS LIKE A GOOD PLACE  
TO STOP. GAS-GRENADE GOING IN NOW!





RYDER OPENED A PANEL AND THEY ACTIVATED THE CATERPILLAR BOMB THEY'D BEEN CARRYING.

OKAY, BOMB, YOUR INSTRUCTIONS ARE TO PENETRATE TO WITHIN FIVE METRES OF THE POWER CORE BEFORE YOU DETONATE!



I UNDERSTAND. I WILL WAIT FOR YOUR ALL-CLEAR SIGNAL BEFORE I DETONATE.



MAKE SURE YOU DO!





AS THE TWO TRANSMAT CAPSULES DEMATERIALISED, THEY ALSO DEMATERIALISED PART OF THE BATTLESTATION —

BOMB . . . WE'RE  
ALL CLEAR!

THEN THE CATERPILLAR BOMB DETONATED —

AAIIIEE! WHAT HAPPENS?



ON BOARD RYDER'S TRANSMAT CAPSULE—



WE SHOULD MATERIALISE  
TOGETHER ON THE PLANET!

BOTH CAPSULES  
ARE CONVERGING.



THEY MADE A CLOSE LANDING ON  
PLANET ALPHA 858.





BUT BEFORE THE CO-ORDINATES  
COULD BE RESET—

HELL'S FANGS! THE GROUND'S  
BREAKING! HOLD ON!

IN A CLOUD OF DUST, THE TWO CAPSULES  
SETTLED IN A CAVERN.

EVERYONE OKAY?

WE ARE, BUT NUMBER TWO  
CAPSULE LOOKS IN TROUBLE!





THEY'RE OKAY, BUT THEY CAN'T GET OUT  
UNTIL WE'VE CLEARED THESE ROCKS  
AWAY.


THE SCREAM OF A DISTRUCTOR BOLT FILLED THE CAVERN—

THE ZORGs ARE HERE.  
GET DOWN!

THEY'VE GOT ME TRAPPED!  
THE CAPSULES CAN'T RESIST  
THEIR FIRE FOR LONG.  
WHERE HAVE THEY COME  
FROM? THIS PLANET'S  
DESERTED!



SOUNDS OF MORE LASERFIRE ECHOED  
THROUGH THE CAVERN —



IF I MAKE AN ESCAPE IN MY CAPSULE  
I'LL DESTROY THE OTHER ONE!

WHAT THE . . . ?

THE STRANGERS POURED LETHAL  
BURSTS OF FIRE INTO THE ZORG—

DIE, YOU STINKING VERMIN!



ANYONE ALIVE  
DOWN THERE?

YOU BET! BUT I NEED SOME HELP  
GETTING MY MEN OUT OF HERE!



RYDER AND THE SURVIVORS WERE SOON RESCUED —

WE'RE ON A MISSION TO SECURE A KYLITE WELL ON THIS PLANET — BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? THERE AREN'T ANY COLONIES!

THE ZORGS FOUND OUT ABOUT THE WELL AND BROUGHT US HERE TO TAP IT FOR THEM! WE'RE WHAT'S LEFT OF THE ORIGINAL MINING CREW!

I'M AXOL, CHARGEHAND OF THIS LOT. THE ZORGS HAVE JUST TAKEN THE LAST LOAD AWAY. WE ESCAPED AS THE SHIPS WERE LEAVING, BUT FOR SOME REASON THEY SENT A SQUAD AFTER US.

THAT FUEL SOURCE WAS THE KEY TO EARTH'S INVASION PLAN! WITHOUT THAT FUEL, THE FLEET WILL BE DOOMED TO FAIL!

WHY THAT PARTICULAR SOURCE? GEOLOGICALLY THIS PLANET IS DEBRIS FROM AN EXPLOSION — OTHER BITS MUST BE IN SPACE NEARBY. IF I COULD GET A SURVEYING SCANNER INTO SPACE I MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND ONE.

RYDER'S TRANSMAT WAS RAISED FROM THE HOLE AND HE CONTACTED HIS SHIP.

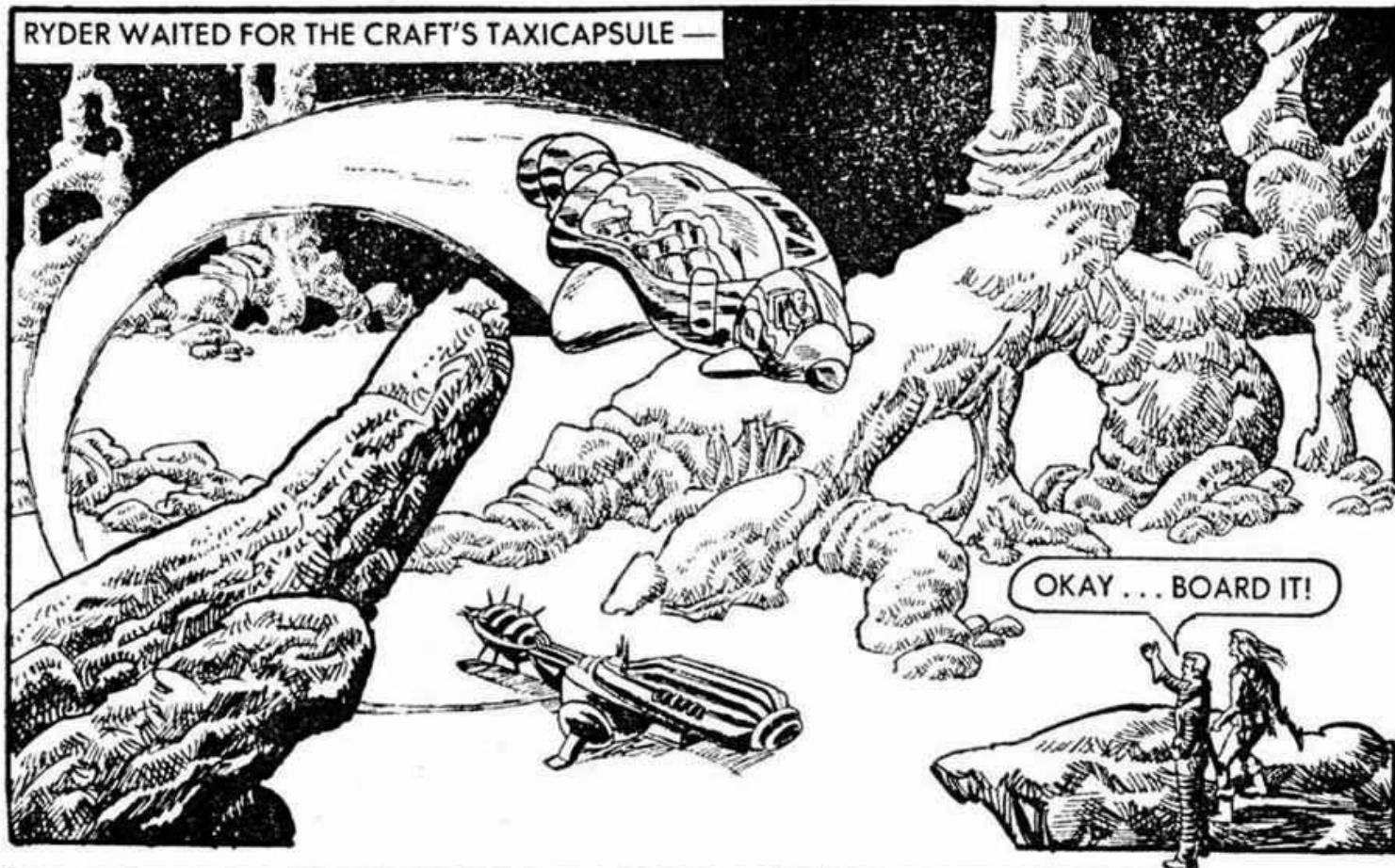


HOURS LATER THE ASSAULT SHIP CAME IN TO LAND.





RYDER WAITED FOR THE CRAFT'S TAXICAPSULE —



BUT BEFORE THEY COULD BOARD THE FLYER, THE THUNDER OF STARDRIVES SHATTERED THE AIR —



THE EARTH SHIP WAS HELPLESS TO DEFEND ITSELF —



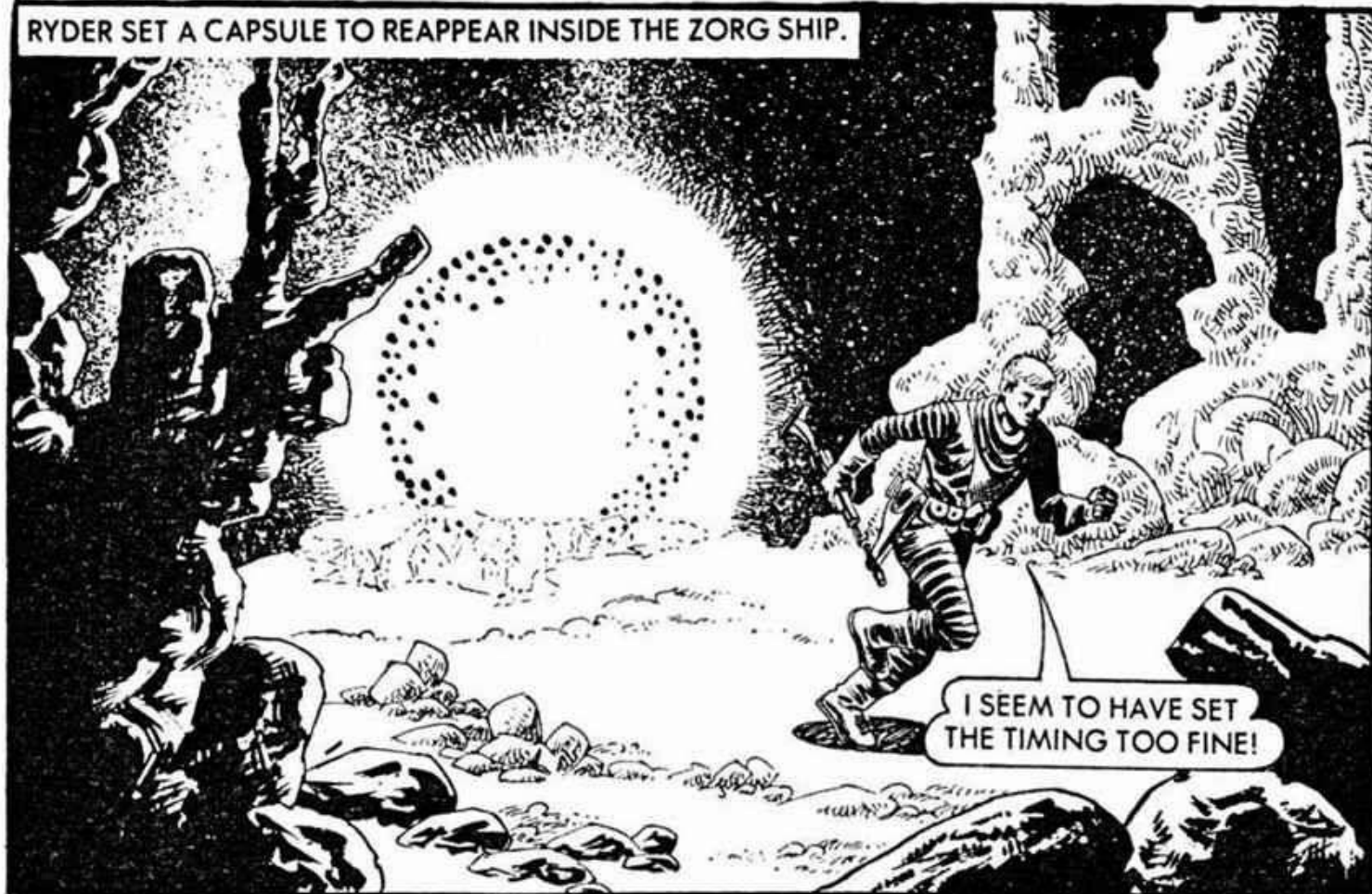




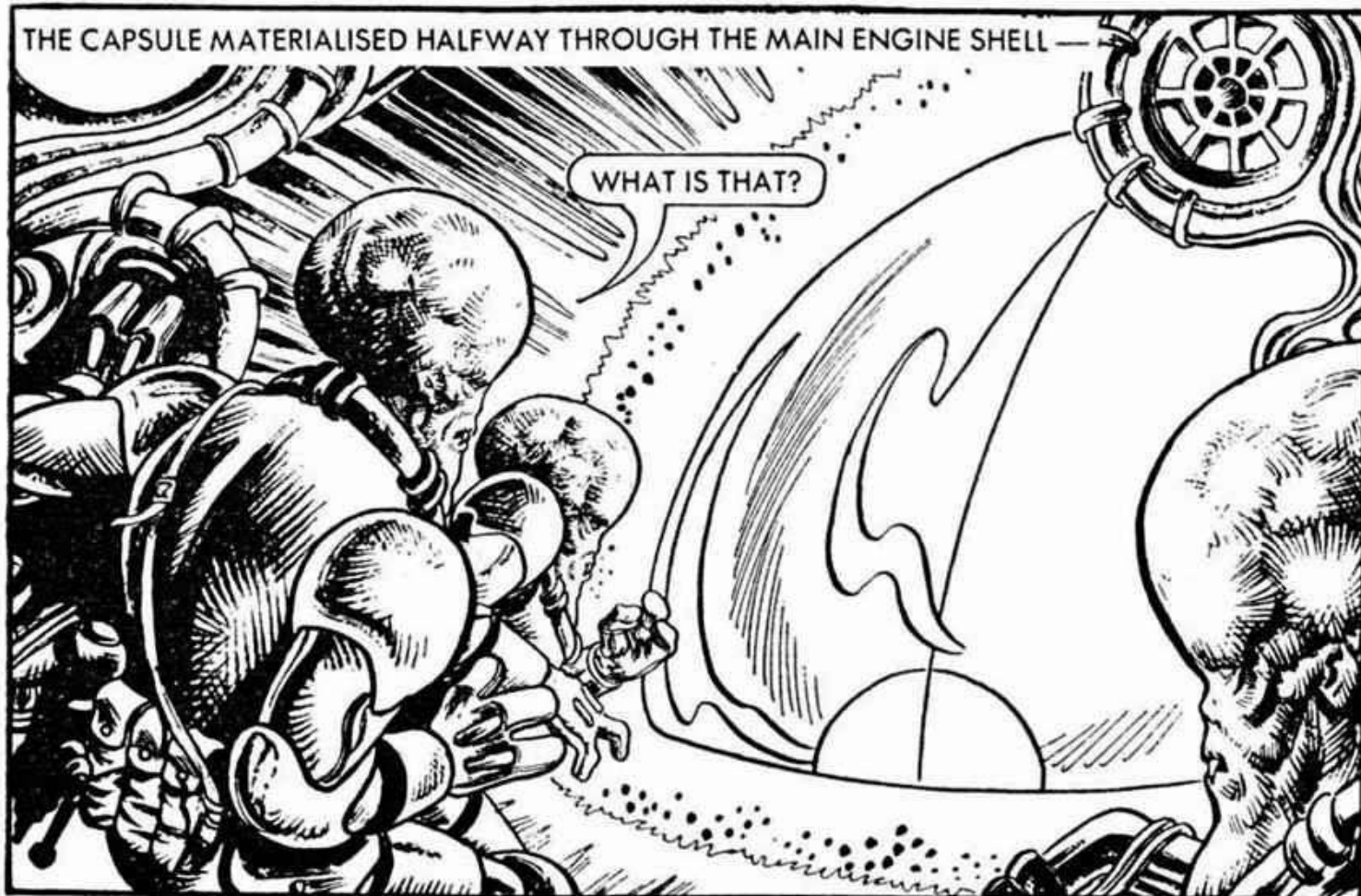
RYDER LEAPT FROM THE FLYER AS IT DIVED INTO THE DEEP RAVINE —



RYDER SET A CAPSULE TO REAPPEAR INSIDE THE ZORG SHIP.

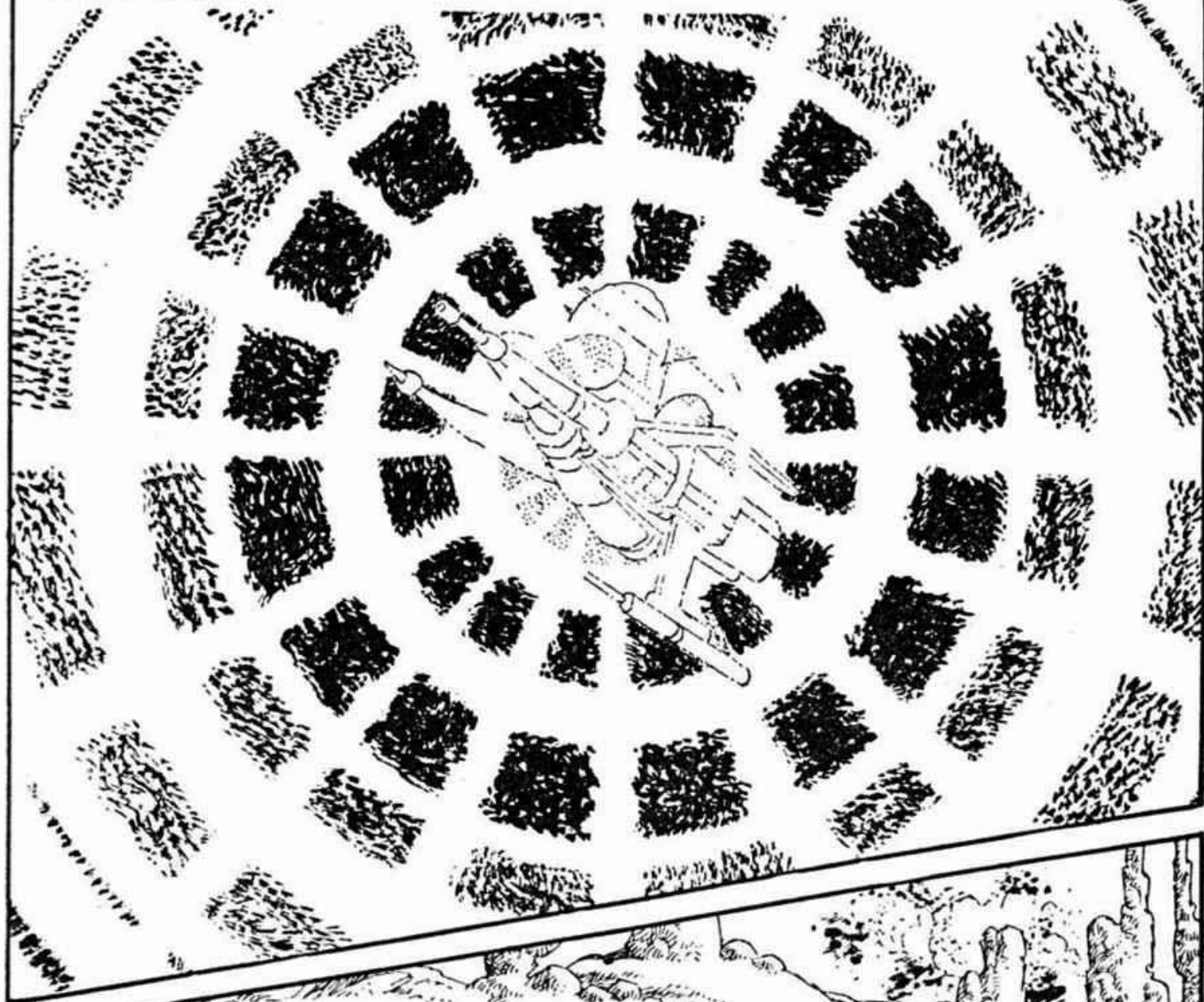


THE CAPSULE MATERIALISED HALFWAY THROUGH THE MAIN ENGINE SHELL —





TWO OBJECTS CANNOT OCCUPY THE SAME PLACE AT THE SAME TIME — AND BOTH  
DISINTEGRATED.



YOU GOT RID OF THEM, MY FRIEND,  
BUT THEY HAVE MADE OUR PROBLEM  
WORSE!

THERE'S NO WAY WE COULD LOCATE  
THE OTHER KYLITE WELL WITH THIS LITTLE  
FLYER!





ANGLOX WAS THE CHIEF PLANET IN THE SOL 4 SYSTEM, AND SOLAR CITY WAS THE CAPITAL.

ANY SUGGESTIONS WHERE TO LAND THIS CAN?

I MET NOVAL ONCE IN SOLAR CITY — LET'S TRY THERE!

THE TRANSMAT MATERIALISED IN A DEVASTATED PART OF THE CITY.





THIS PART OF THE CITY'S UNINHABITED.

THEY'RE FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE WITH A ZORG PATROL!

WELL THERE'S SOMEONE OUT THERE!! I CAN HEAR BLASTER-FIRE!

IT MUST BE A RESISTANCE GROUP!

I RECKON WE'D BETTER SHORTEN THE ODDS, RYDER!






OUT-FLANKED BY RYDER AND AXOL THE ZORGS WERE BLASTED TO PIECES.









THE RESISTANCE LEADER LED THEM THROUGH THE RUINS TO HIS HIDDEN H.Q.

WE'LL SOON GET THE INFORMATION.

THEY'VE TRACED HIM, JONES. HE'S IN THE INTERROGATION CENTRE — HE WAS COLLECTED IN A RANDOM SWEEP FOR HOSTAGES.

THAT'S ONE PLACE NO ONE CAN GET INTO. MAXIMUM SECURITY.

I CAN TRANSMIT PAST ANY DEFENCES NOW THAT I HAVE THE CO-ORDINATES!

NOT FROM HERE, RYDER. THE RUINS ARE THICK WITH UNEXPLODED BOMBS — YOUR 'TAKE-OFF' WOULD TAKE MOST OF THE CITY WITH IT!



THE RESISTANCE MEN HASTILY GRABBED THEIR WEAPONRY AND ABANDONED THE H.Q. THEY KNEW THE ZORGS WOULD HAVE PIN-POINTED THEIR POSITION —





THEY FOUND THEMSELVES BY AN UNDERGROUND RIVER THAT SUPPLIED THE CITY.



A PATTERN OF SMALL EXPLOSIONS COLLAPSED THE ROOF AND BRIDGE INTO THE TORRENT.





LET'S GET TO YOUR TRANSMIT CAPSULE — MY MEN WILL MAKE SURE WE'RE NOT FOLLOWED. I'VE MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO 'HIRE' A LIFTING FLOAT FROM THE ZORGs!

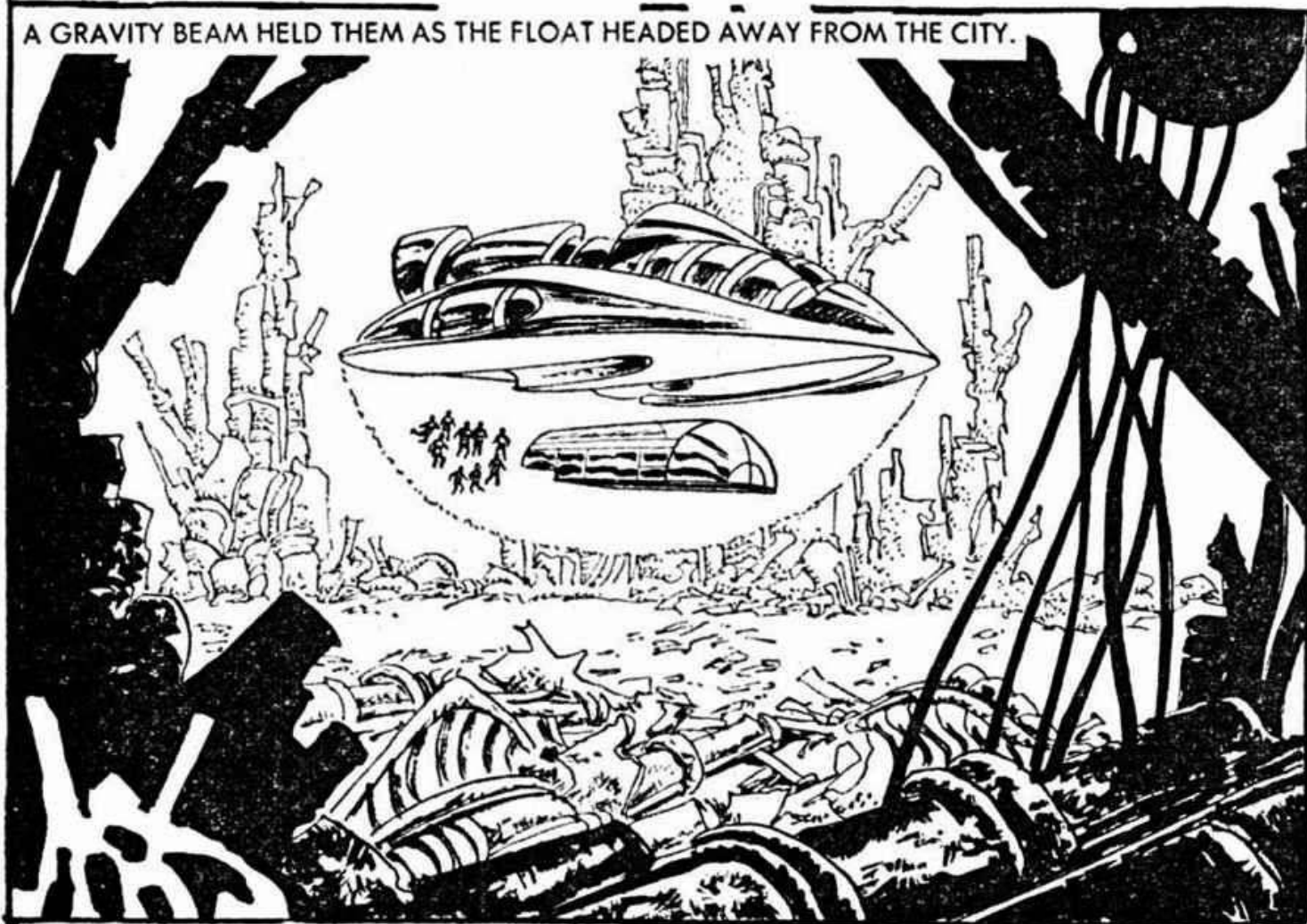


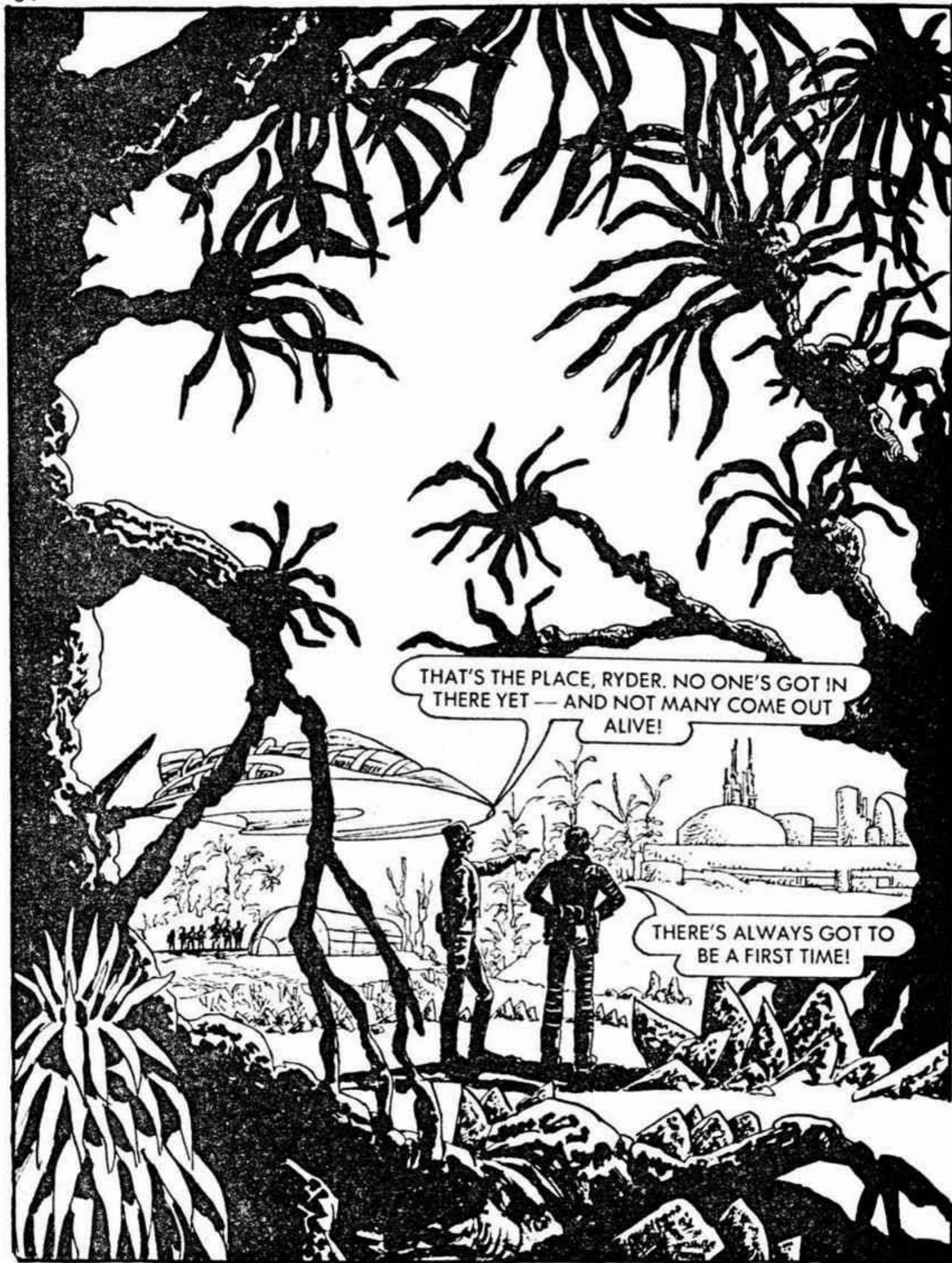
THEY REACHED THE TRANSMAT SAFELY AND WATCHED THE STOLEN FLOAT MANOEUVRE INTO PLACE.



WE'LL TAKE YOU TO THE INTERROGATION CENTRE.

A GRAVITY BEAM HELD THEM AS THE FLOAT HEADED AWAY FROM THE CITY.





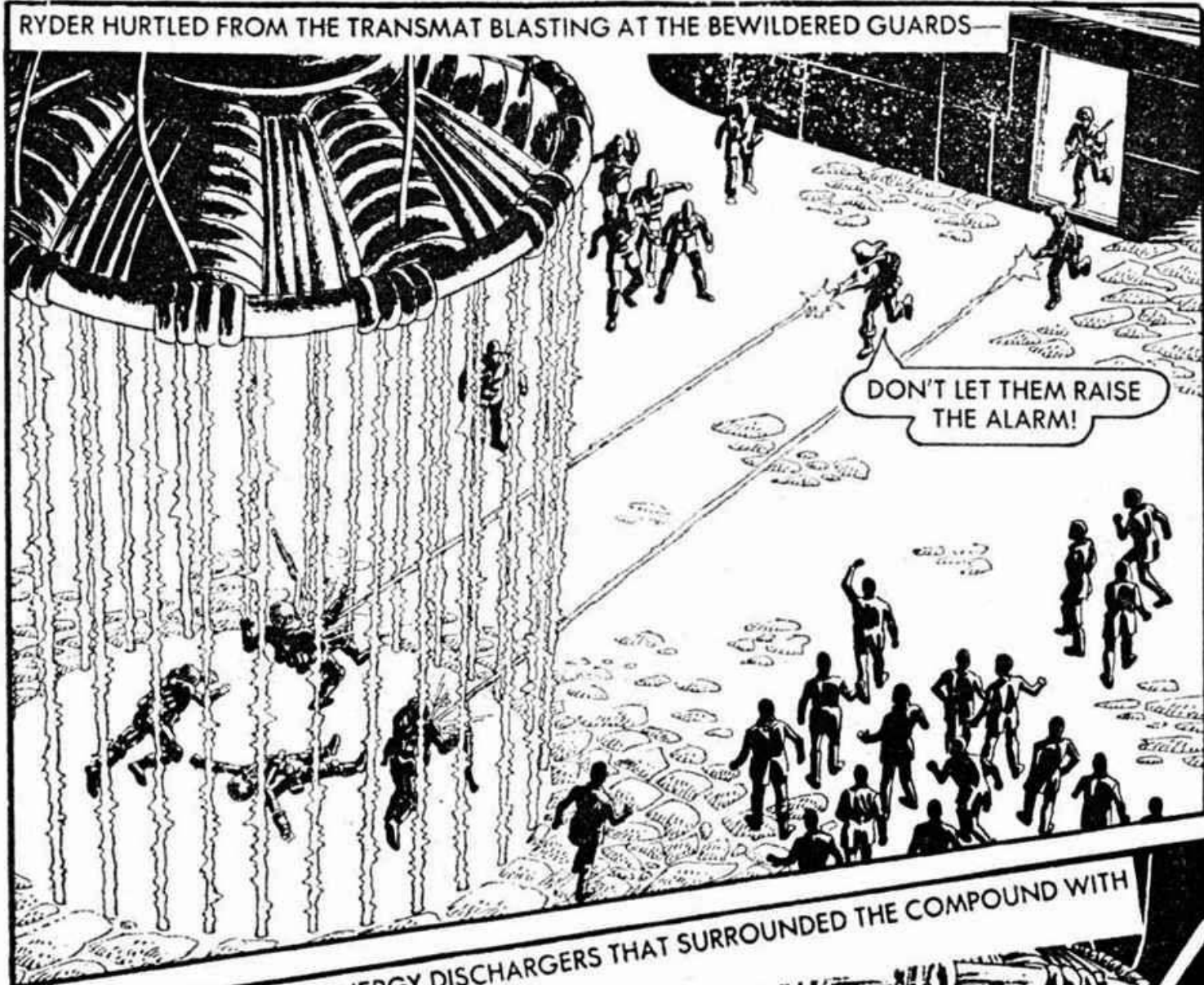




THE TRANSMAT APPEARED INSIDE THE PRISONER'S EXERCISE YARD—



RYDER HURTLED FROM THE TRANSMAT BLASTING AT THE BEWILDERED GUARDS—



AXOL DEACTIVATED THE ENERGY DISCHARGERS THAT SURROUNDED THE COMPOUND WITH A GUARD'S SECURITY SCANNER.





THE PRISONER FED THE IDENTITY INTO THE SECURITY SCANNER. A SECOND LATER IT FLASHED THE INFORMATION.

THAT'S NOVAR! I'D  
RECOGNISE HIM ANYWHERE!

YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM. HE'S DUE  
TO BE EXECUTED IN TWO MINUTES!

THEY HAVE THE EXECUTION  
CHAMBER BEYOND THAT DOOR. IT'S  
GOT A MULTIPLE SECURITY LOCK—  
IT'LL TAKE AGES TO OPEN IT!

NOT WITH MY SECURITY KEY IT WON'T!  
STAY HERE! I'M GOING IN ALONE!



RYDER WAS AMAZED BY THE SIGHT IN THE CHAMBER, BUT NEVERTHELESS HE WAS PREPARED—





RYDER AND NOVAR FLED—

ALL HELL'S GOING TO BREAK LOOSE  
NOW! GET TO THE TRANSMAT.



GET WELL BACK! WE'RE DESTROYING  
THE SECURITY WALL AS WE LEAVE!



THE TRANSMAT DEMATERIALISED, CREATING A LARGE GAP FOR THE ESCAPING PRISONERS—





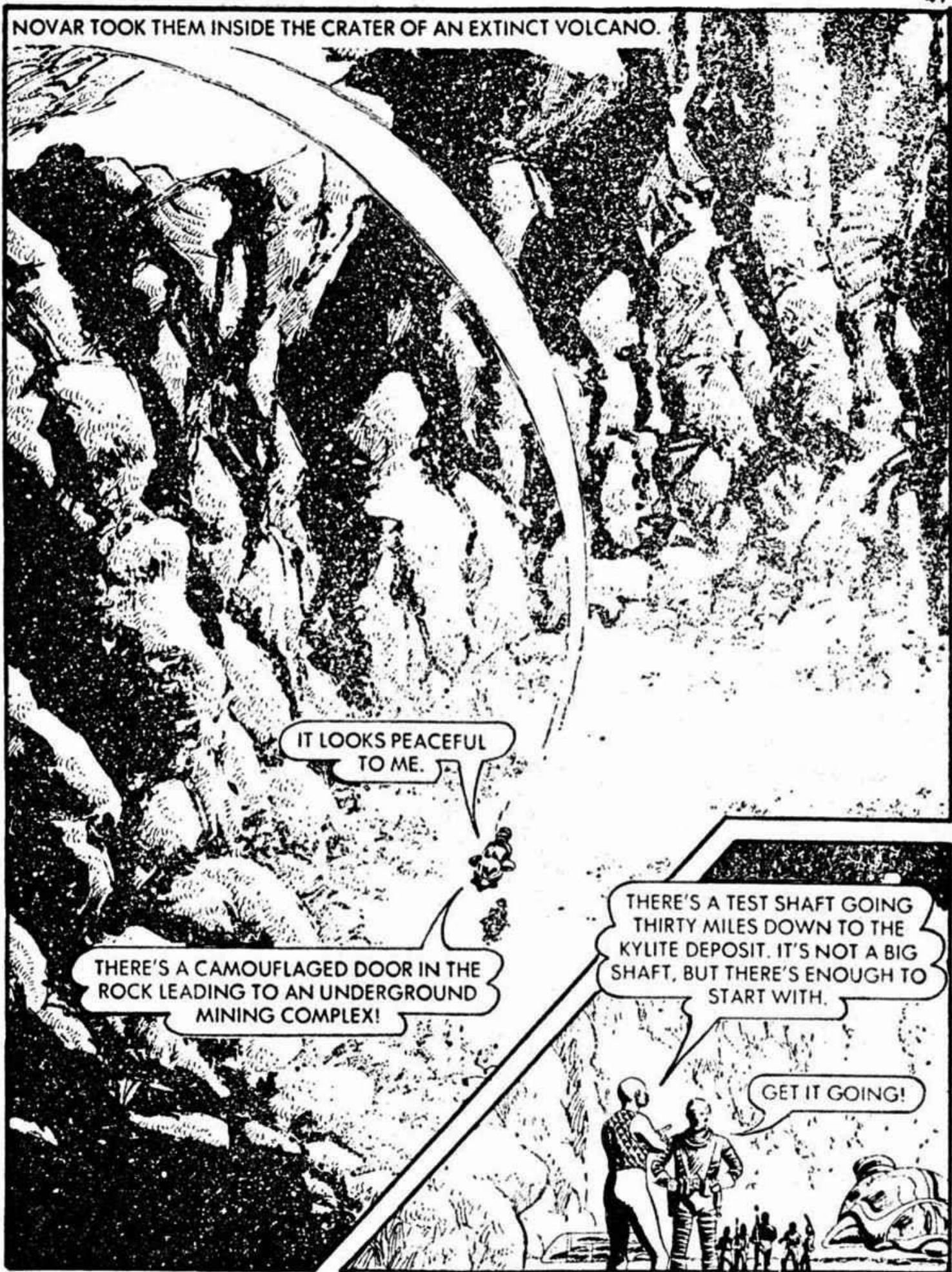
NOVAR TOOK THEM INSIDE THE CRATER OF AN EXTINCT VOLCANO.


IT LOOKS PEACEFUL  
TO ME.

THERE'S A CAMOUFLAGED DOOR IN THE  
ROCK LEADING TO AN UNDERGROUND  
MINING COMPLEX!


THERE'S A TEST SHAFT GOING  
THIRTY MILES DOWN TO THE  
KYLITE DEPOSIT. IT'S NOT A BIG  
SHAFT, BUT THERE'S ENOUGH TO  
START WITH.

GET IT GOING!





I'LL SEND FOR THE TANKERS TO COME IN  
AND TELL THE FLEET ADMIRAL THAT IT'S  
OK TO COMMIT HIMSELF TO BATTLE.



THAT'S A SMALL TRANSMAT MESSAGE  
CAPSULE AND IT'S GOING TO SIGNAL  
THE ELIMINATION OF THE ZORGS. NOW  
HOW DO WE GET INTO THE MINE?



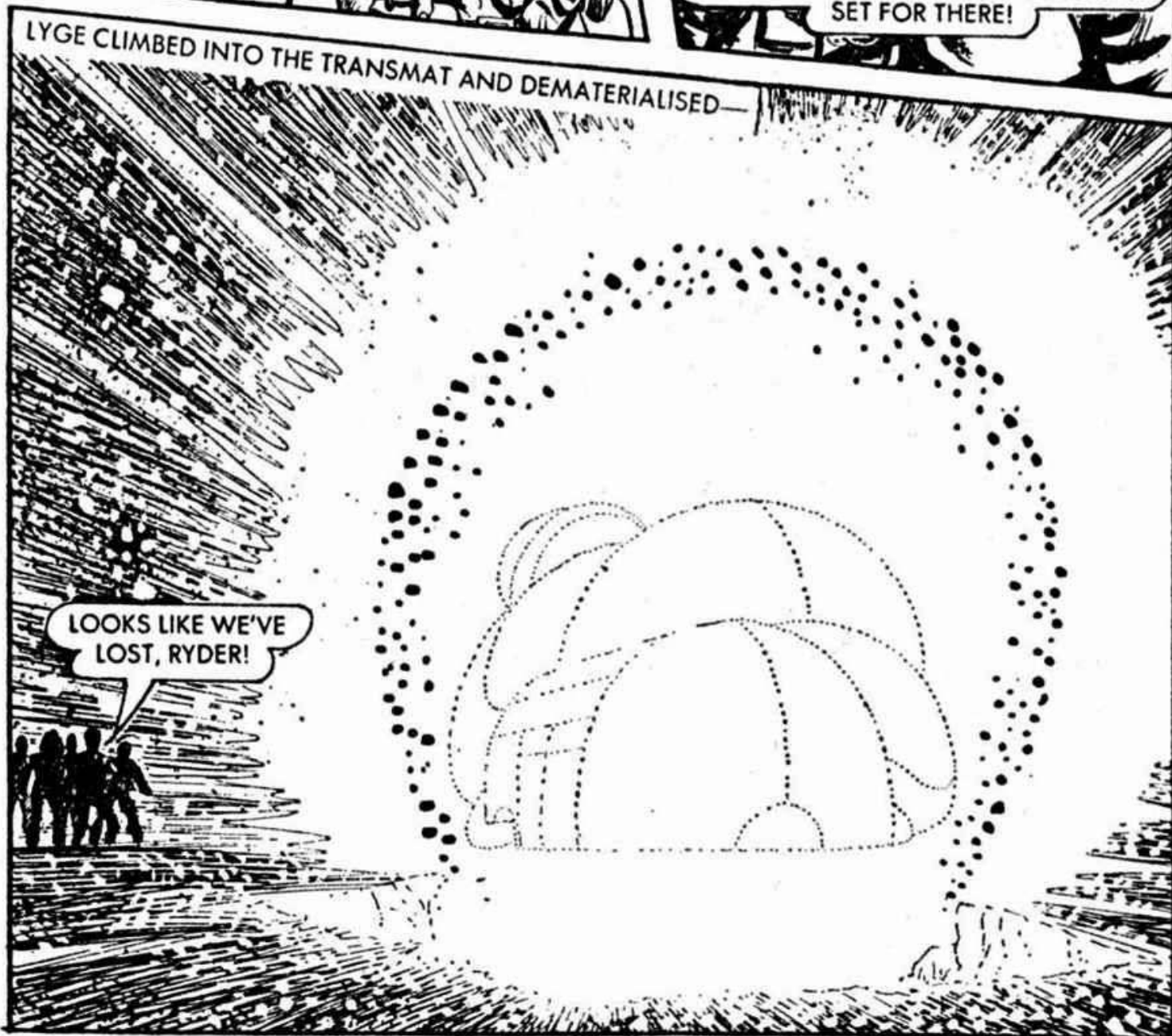
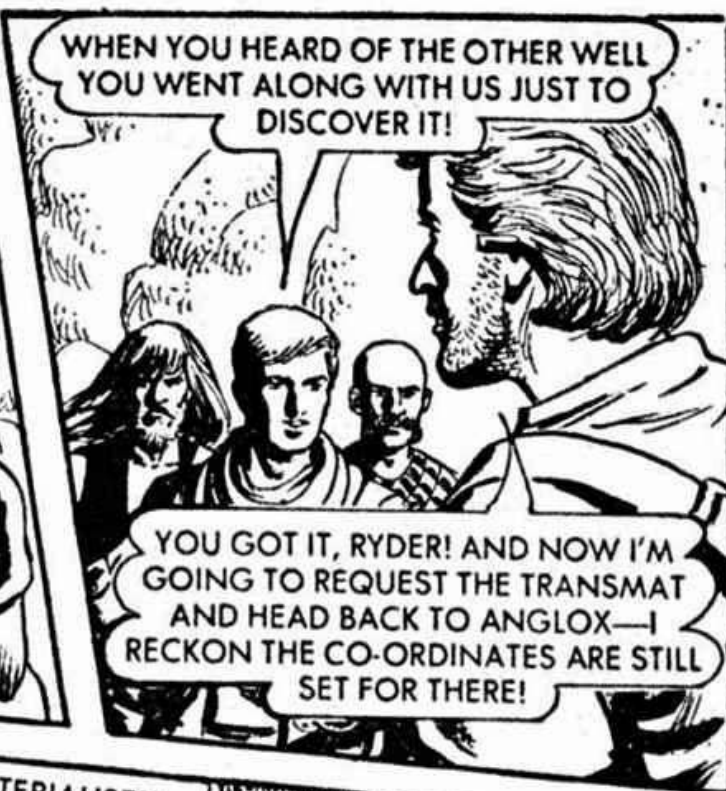
YOU DON'T! YOU JUST LAY DOWN  
YOUR ARMS AND GET OVER THERE!

WHAT ARE YOU  
DOING, LYGE?

YOU STINKING  
TRAIT... ARRGH!

ANYONE ELSE  
WANT TO JOIN HIM?





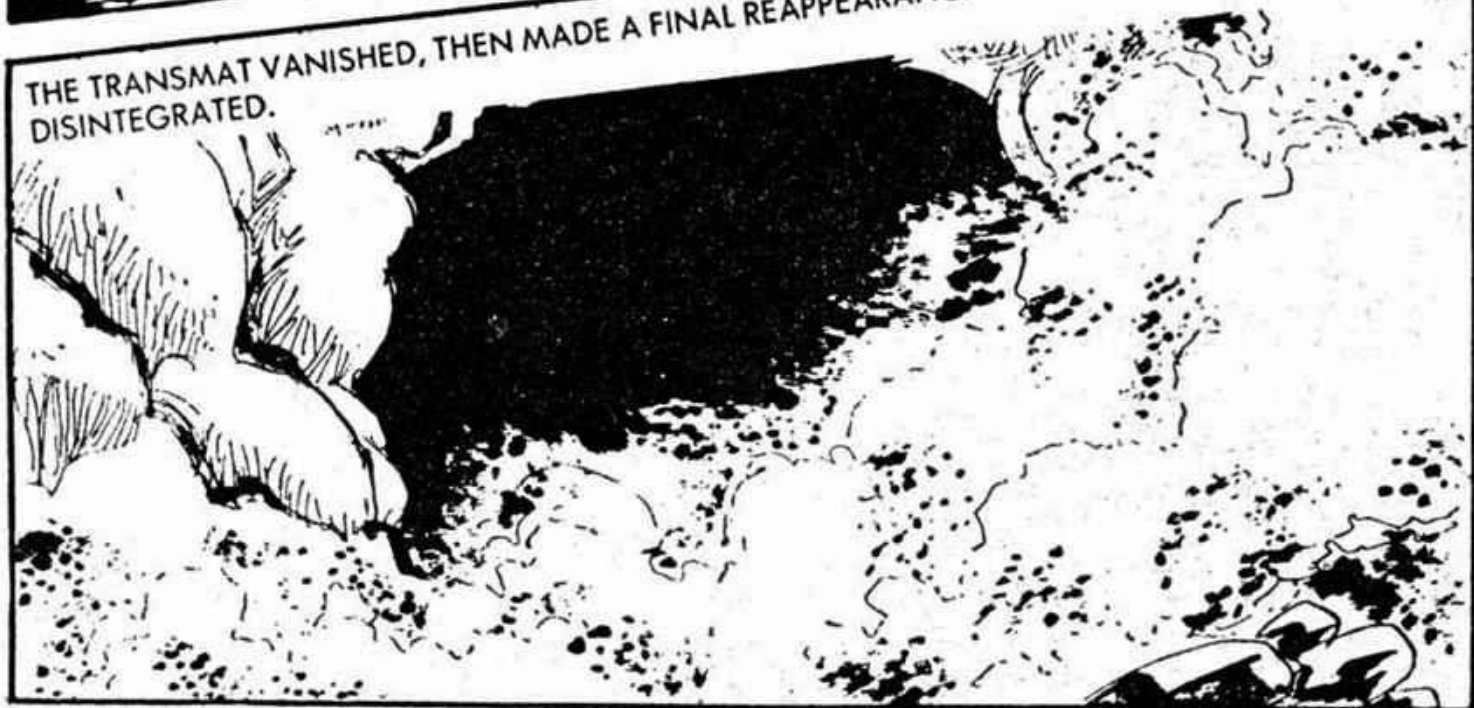


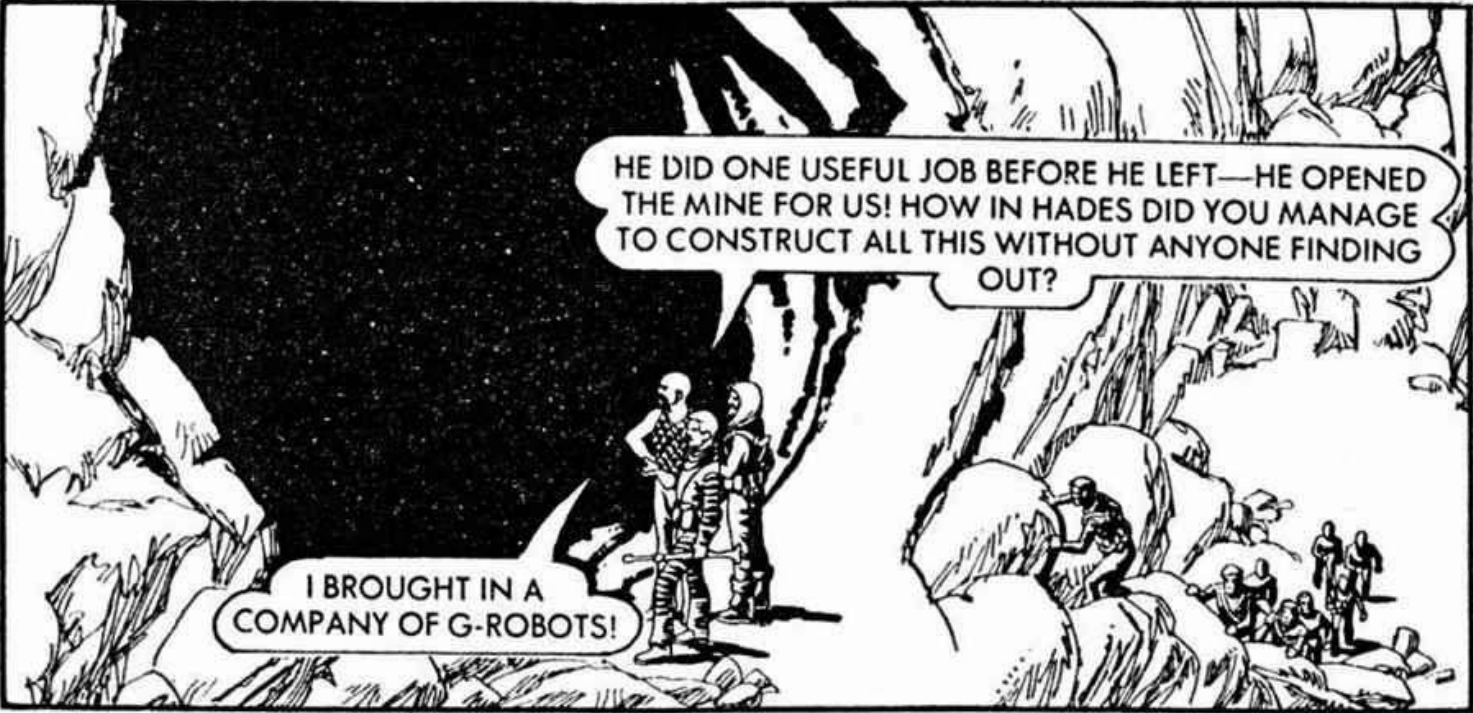
A SECOND LATER THE TRANSMAT CAPSULE REAPPEARED—

IT'S LYGE THAT'S LOST! HE HASN'T GOT  
ENOUGH POWER FOR TRANSITION! I  
HAD TO DRAIN IT OFF TO SEND THE  
MESSAGE CAPSULE! THE TRANSMAT'S  
GOING OUT OF PHASE!



THE TRANSMAT VANISHED, THEN MADE A FINAL REAPPEARANCE INSIDE THE ROCK... AND  
DISINTEGRATED.





HE DID ONE USEFUL JOB BEFORE HE LEFT—HE OPENED THE MINE FOR US! HOW IN HADES DID YOU MANAGE TO CONSTRUCT ALL THIS WITHOUT ANYONE FINDING OUT?

I BROUGHT IN A COMPANY OF G-ROBOTS!



THOSE THINGS WERE OUTLAWED BECAUSE OF THEIR UNSTABLE BRAIN UNITS.

I KNOW, BUT THEY'RE THE MOST POWERFUL RO-CHINES EVER MADE. IT WAS WORTH TAKING THE RISK!



BUT ALL WAS NOT WELL—

OH, NO!

THEY MUST HAVE ACTIVATED  
WHEN I PUT THE POWER ON.

OKAY, G-ROBOTS, GET BACK TO  
YOUR DE-ACTIVE STATUS!







RYDER PICKED UP A METAL BAR FROM THE FLOOR AND RACED TOWARDS THE ROBOTS—

I'M MINCEMEAT  
IF I MISS!

HE POLE-VAULTED OVER THE CRAZED MACHINES—





RYDER FIRED THE POSITRON WHIP AT THE ROBOT'S HEAD.









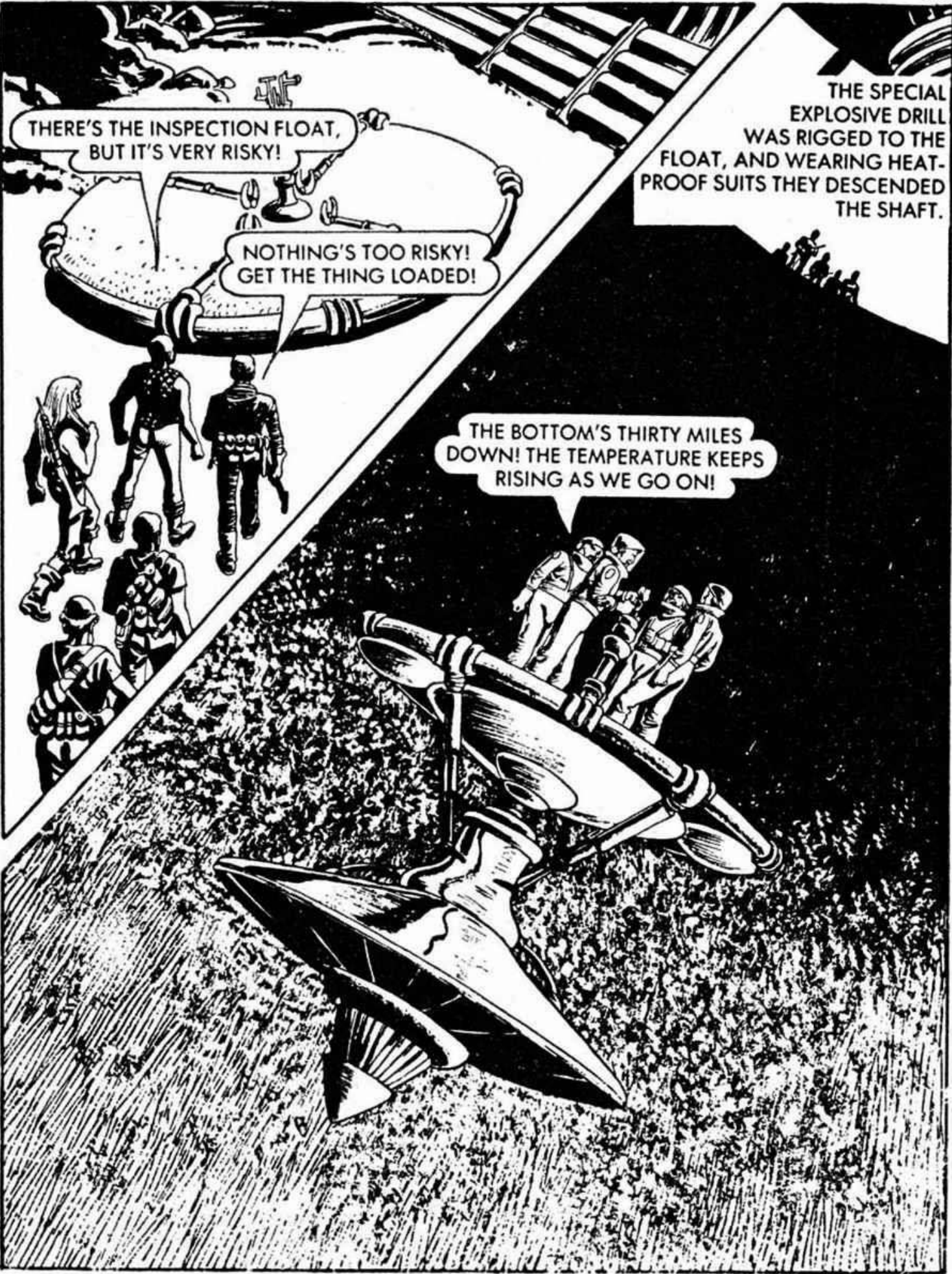
HERE, SOLDIER! TAKE THIS AND  
KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR ANY  
MORE OF THEM!

WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM, RYDER.  
A RICOCHET'S WRECKED THE BORER!

IT CARRIES AN EXPLOSIVE DRILL  
THAT MAKES THE FINAL  
BREAKTHROUGH TO THE MOLTEN  
KYLITE! IT HAS TO BE POSITIONED  
EXACTLY OR THE SHAFT JUST  
COLLAPSES AND THE KYLITE CAN'T  
FLOW OUT!

IS THERE NO OTHER WAY OF  
GETTING THE DRILL DOWN THERE?





THERE'S THE INSPECTION FLOAT,  
BUT IT'S VERY RISKY!

NOTHING'S TOO RISKY!  
GET THE THING LOADED!

THE SPECIAL  
EXPLOSIVE DRILL  
WAS RIGGED TO THE  
FLOAT, AND WEARING HEAT-  
PROOF SUITS THEY DESCENDED  
THE SHAFT.

THE BOTTOM'S THIRTY MILES  
DOWN! THE TEMPERATURE KEEPS  
RISING AS WE GO ON!

NEAR THE BOTTOM OF THE SHAFT THE WALLS  
WERE GLOWING WHITE-HOT—

WHEN WE GET THERE WE'LL HAVE  
TO LEAVE THE FLOAT TO SET THE  
BOMB! MAKE SURE YOU DON'T  
TOUCH THE ROCK!

IT MUST BE SET  
ABSOLUTELY VERTICAL  
AND DEAD CENTRE,  
RYDER.

NEARLY DONE, BUT THE  
FLOOR'S PARTLY MOLTEN!  
WE'RE SINKING IN TO IT!





BUT AS THEY PREPARED TO LEAVE, RYDER'S PILOT LOST A BOOT AND THE HEAT KILLED HIM INSTANTLY—



THEY LOOKED UP AS THE SOUND OF STARDRIVES FILLED THE AIR.


YOUR TANKERS HAVE ARRIVED  
ON CUE, RYDER!

THEY'RE EARLY!

THEY'RE ZORG SHIPS. GET UNDER  
COVER BEFORE THEY SPOT US!


HOW DID THEY GET HERE? THEY  
MUST KNOW ABOUT THE INVASION!





I DON'T THINK SO. THE INTERROGATION CENTRE HAD AUTOMATIC SCANNERS. THEY WOULD HAVE IDENTIFIED LYGE AND CHECKED HIS STATUS.

WHEN THEY FOUND HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ON THIS PLANET THEY SENT SHIPS TO INVESTIGATE THE MYSTERY!



THE RADIATION LEAKING FROM THIS TUNNEL MUST HAVE BEEN LIKE A BEACON TO THEM!

YEAH, THEY'D SPOT THAT FROM DEEP SPACE!



WE CAN HOLD THEM OFF  
UNTIL THE FLEET ARRIVES.

THEY WON'T COME! THEY'LL NEED ALL  
AVAILABLE FIGHTING SHIPS—THE TANKERS  
WILL COME IN UNESCORTED!

THERE ARE ESCAPED PRISONERS IN  
THAT CAVE. CLEAR THE ENTRANCE!

YES, SIR!





THEY LOADED ONTO A DUMPER FLOAT AND NOVAR DROVE THEM THROUGH THE REAR EXIT TUNNEL.



AS THEY ROUNDED A BEND THEY RAN STRAIGHT INTO A G-ROBOT.

I'VE GOT HIM!

LOOK OUT! WE'RE  
GOING TO CRASH!

AEEII!





TWO WERE KILLED IN THE CRASH...

THE REST OF US  
ARE OKAY!

WE WON'T BE  
FOR LONG!

... AND THE DETONATOR HAD ACTIVATED.

A TERRIBLE, THUNDERING VIBRATION SPASMED THROUGH THE TUNNEL—

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

THAT'S THE SOUND OF FOUR BILLION TONS  
OF MOLTEN KYLITE ON ITS WAY UP!



THE WHOLE PLACE IS  
COMING APART!

I DESIGNED IT TO SELF-SEAL TO  
PREVENT KYLITE LEAKING OUT!

WE MADE IT!

JUST! AND THAT'S MORE  
THAN THE ZORGs WILL!

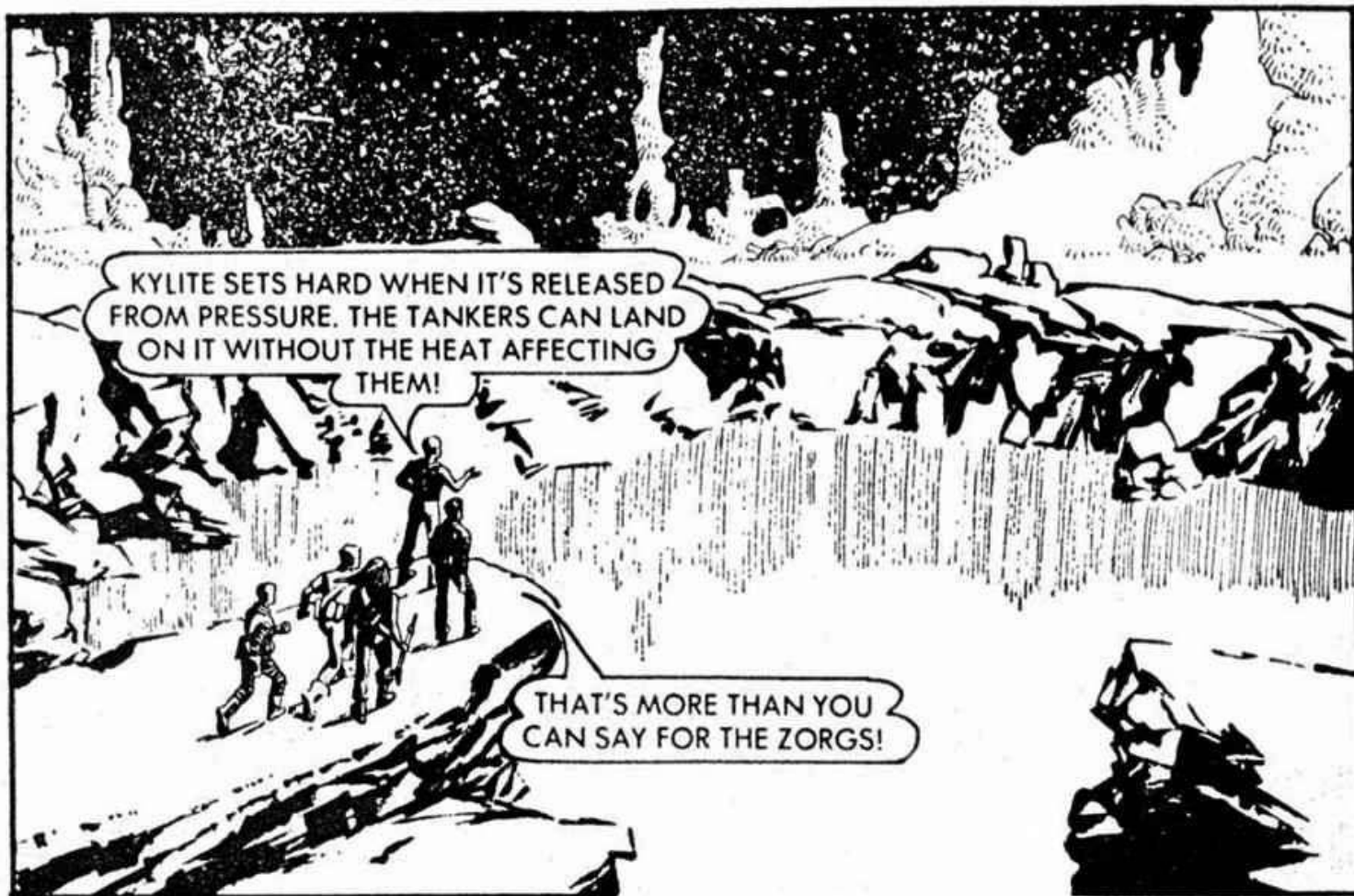
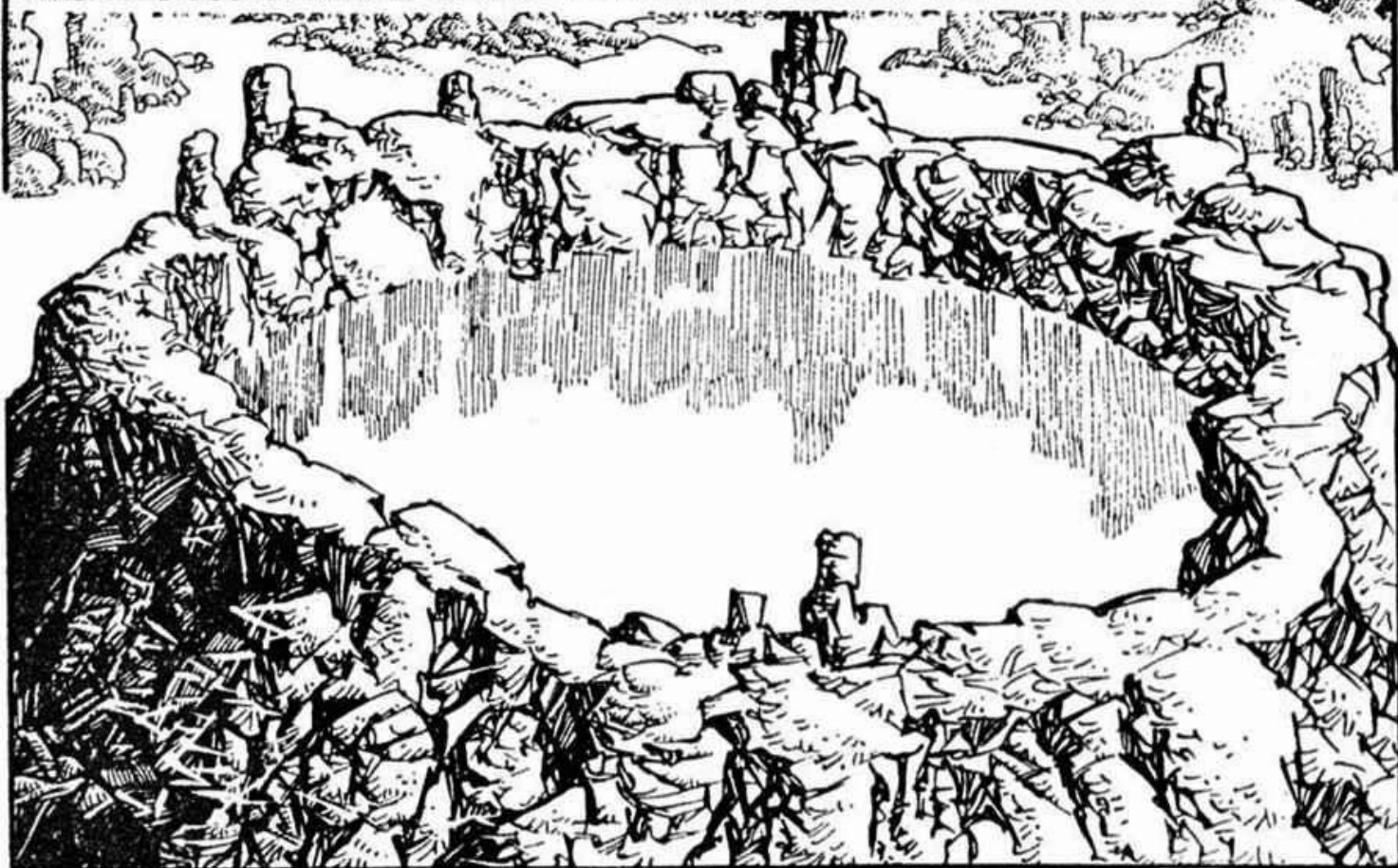




AS NOVAR HAD INTENDED, THE KYLITE GUSHED OUT INTO THE VOLCANO'S CRATER—



WHEN THE GUSHER FINALLY STOPPED THERE WAS NO TRACE OF ZORG OR SHIPS—





THE TANKERS ARRIVED AND BEGAN THE COLLECTION AND CONVERSION OF THE KYLITE.





WITH AN ADEQUATE FUEL SUPPLY, THE EARTH FLEET EXTENDED ITS AREA OF OPERATION AND SLOWLY, BUT SURELY, PUSHED THE ZORGS BACK TO THEIR OWN WORLD.

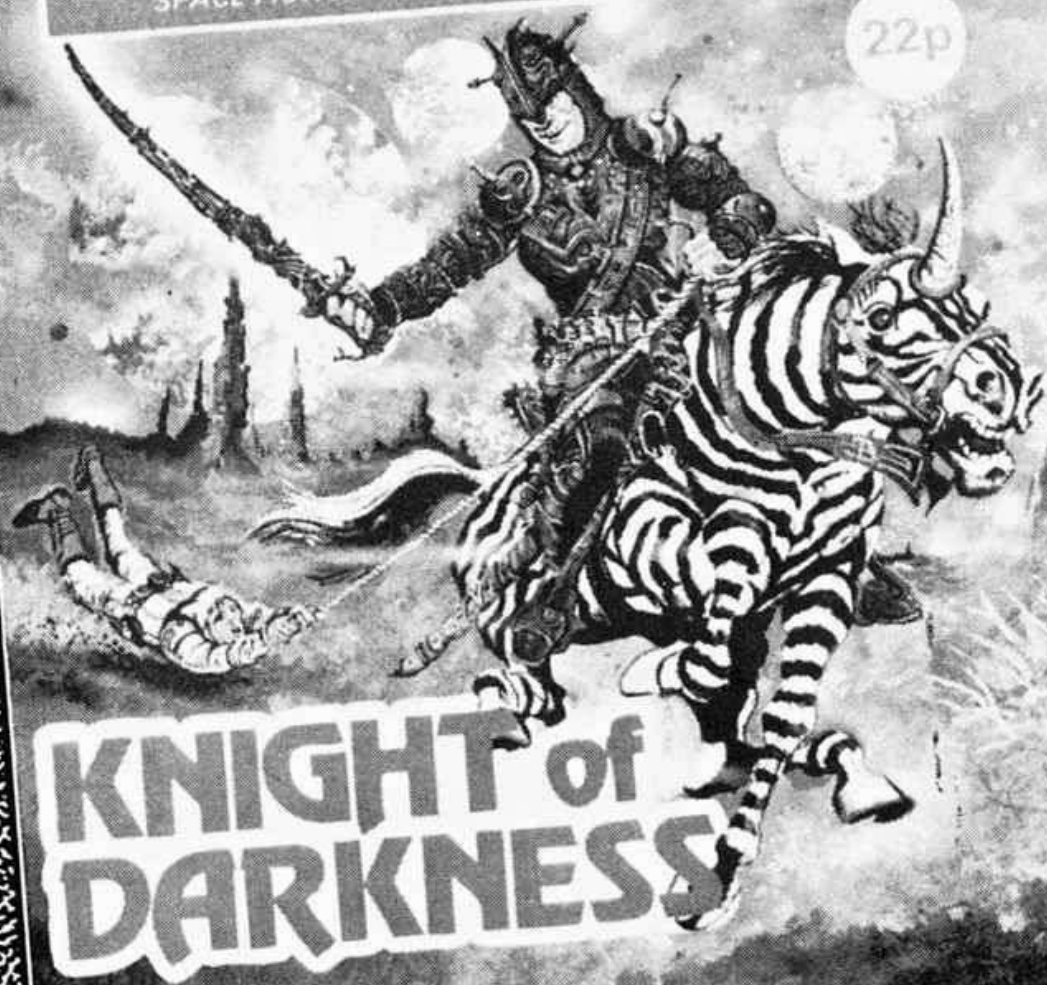
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**DON'T FORGET THIS  
MONTH'S *OTHER***

**STARBLAZER**  
SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No 146

22p



**On sale at your newsagent's *NOW!***

In May of 1975 a final Soyuz 18, was launched before the momentous events of seven weeks later. Second time cosmonauts Klimuk and Sevastyanov were aboard when it docked with Salyut 4.

Apollo 18 was the American part of the joint US/USSR mission launched on July 15th, 1975. The only first-time spacemen on board were Vance DeVoe Brand, 44 and Donald Kent Slayton, 51, both US. Their mission lasted 9 days 1 hr. 28 min. Slayton is now in private business. Brand commanded the fifth space shuttle mission, STS 5, on November 11th, 1982. It lasted 5 days 2 hr. 14 min. 25 sec. He also led mission No. 10, STS 41B, launched on February 3rd, 1984, lasting 7 days 23 hr. 15 min.

